

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 ACDA-12 EB-08
/141 W

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R 081130Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 315

C O N F I D E N T I A L COLOMBO 2162

DEPT PASS ALL NON-ALIGNED COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, PEBR, CE, YO

SUBJ: VISIT OF YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MILOS MINIC TO SRI
LANKA MAY 6-7

REF: COLOMBO 2158

1. YUGOSLAV FOREIGN MINISTER MILOS MINIC AND ENTOURAGE OF 35
ARRIVED IN COLOMBO MAY 6 AND DEPARTED MAY 7. MINIC HAD THREE
HOUR MEETING WITH SRI LANKA FOREIGN MINISTER, A.C.S. HA-
MEED, AT WHICH THEY DISCUSSED MAINLY NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT,
UN SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT AND COUP IN KABUL.

2. BACKGROUND TO MEETING
ACCORDING TO A MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) SOURCE, MINIC'S
ORIGINAL PLAN TO GO DIRECTLY FROM VISITS IN VIETNAM, KAMPUCHEA,
AND THAILAND TO KABUL FOR NON-ALIGNED COORDINATING BOARD MEET-
ING (NACB) WAS UPSET BY COUP IN KABUL. WITH TIME ON HIS HANDS,
MINIC MADE HASTY ARRANGEMENTS TO VISIT NEW DELHI AND COLOMBO.
IN ADDITION TO WANTING TO DISCUSS NAM, YUGOSLAV PURPOSE OF
VISIT WAS TO TRY TO RE-ESTABLISH SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP IT FELT
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IT HAD WITH PREVIOUS SRI LANKAN GOVERNMENT. THAT RELATIONSHIP
STEMMED FROM A PERSONAL RAPPORT BETWEEN PRESIDENT TITO AND
PRIME MINISTER BANDARANAIKE. FOLLOWING THE CHANGE OF GOVERN-
MENT IN JULY 1977, SEVERAL LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AND MEMBERS OF
PARLIAMENT MADE DISPARAGING REMARKS ABOUT TITO WHICH CAUSED
YUGOSLAVS SOME CONCERN. YUGOSLAVS HAD ASKED HAMEED TO COME
TO BELGRADE BEFORE THE KABUL MEETING, BUT HAMEED'S SCHEDULE

WOULD NOT PERMIT VISIT.

3. NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT

MFA SOURCE SAID MINIC WAS CLEARLY WORRIED ABOUT DIRECTION NAM SEEMS TO BE GOING, WITH SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO CUBA, AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN AFTER CUBA BECOMES CHAIRMAN OF NAM IN 1979. YUGOSLAVS SEE HAND OF MOSCOW IN ALL CUBA'S ACTIONS. MFA SOURCE HEARD BUT COULD NOT CONFIRM THAT MINIC AND HAMEED PRIVATELY DISCUSSED CUBA'S ROLE IN AFRICA AND BOTH WERE CRITICAL OF IT AND DIVISIVE EFFECT IT HAVING ON NAM. MFA SOURCE CITED SUDAN BOYCOTT OF NACB MEETING IN HAVANA AS ILLUSTRATION.

4. TEXT OF MFA COMMUNIQUE ON MINIC-HAMEED MEETING REPORTED REFTEL.

5. COMMENT: IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS EMBASSY OFFICERS HAVE HAD WITH MFA OFFICIALS ON NAM, THERE HAVE BEEN NUMBER OF STATEMENTS INDICATING GROWING DISILLUSIONMENT WITH NAM AND SKIPTICISM THAT IT WILL LAST AS A VIABLE FORCE. HOWEVER, YUGOSLAVS SEEM INTENT ON HOLDING NAM TOGETHER. THEY APPARENTLY FIND IT ONE OF THE FEW AVAILABLE MEANS TO PROJECT YUGOSLAV IMAGE IN MULTINATIONAL FORA. IT IS THE ONLY EUROPEAN NAM MEMBER, THE MOST ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPED, AND THE BEST ORGANIZED AND CONSEQUENTLY HAS FREQUENTLY ASSUMED A ROLE AS NAM SPOKESMAN. FOR THE MOMENT, SRI LANKA'S AND YUGOSLAVIA'S VIEWS AND CONCERNS ABOUT NAM COINCIDE. HOWEVER, AFTER SRI LANKA RELINQUISHES
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THE NAM CHAIRMANSHIP AND FOCUSES INCREASINGLY ON ITS OWN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INTERESTS, IT MAY BE LESS INCLINED TO TAKE AN INTEREST IN NAM AFFAIRS.
WRIGGINS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

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